



City of Fairfax
Fire Department

Taking Pride in Excellence

Thomas W. Owens, CFO
Fire Chief



Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 17, 2003

Dear Chairman Powell:

Re: Docket No. 02-55

As you are aware, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has a plan under consideration to realign the current licensing scheme for 800 MHz radio frequencies. This plan would divide the 800 MHz spectrum into separate blocks for public safety and cellular wireless carriers and by doing so, would virtually eliminate the current interference we experience and increase the amount of radio frequency spectrum available to public safety.

The dangerous interference we currently experience on our public safety radios is an issue of critical importance and it has a direct bearing on the safety and welfare of our public safety personnel and the services we deliver to our communities. The incompatibility of technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless carriers is well known and the interference occurs when we share close frequencies within the 800MHz radio spectrum. The dangers created when communications are lost due to garbled messages must be resolved.

The plan before you, known as the Consensus Plan, is a proactive approach to providing a comprehensive solution to this dangerous situation. I am writing to urge you and the other commissioners to support the adoption of the proposals contained in the Consensus Plan as the method by which we resolve this dangerous situation for our public safety providers in my community and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

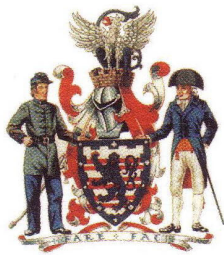
Respectfully,

Thomas W. Owens

(electronically signed)

Thomas W. Owens, CFO
Fire Chief

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abemathy
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kevin Martin



City of Fairfax
Fire Department

Taking Pride in Excellence

Thomas W. Owens, CFO
Fire Chief

